

2016

Epinal: Popular Art for Mind and Heart

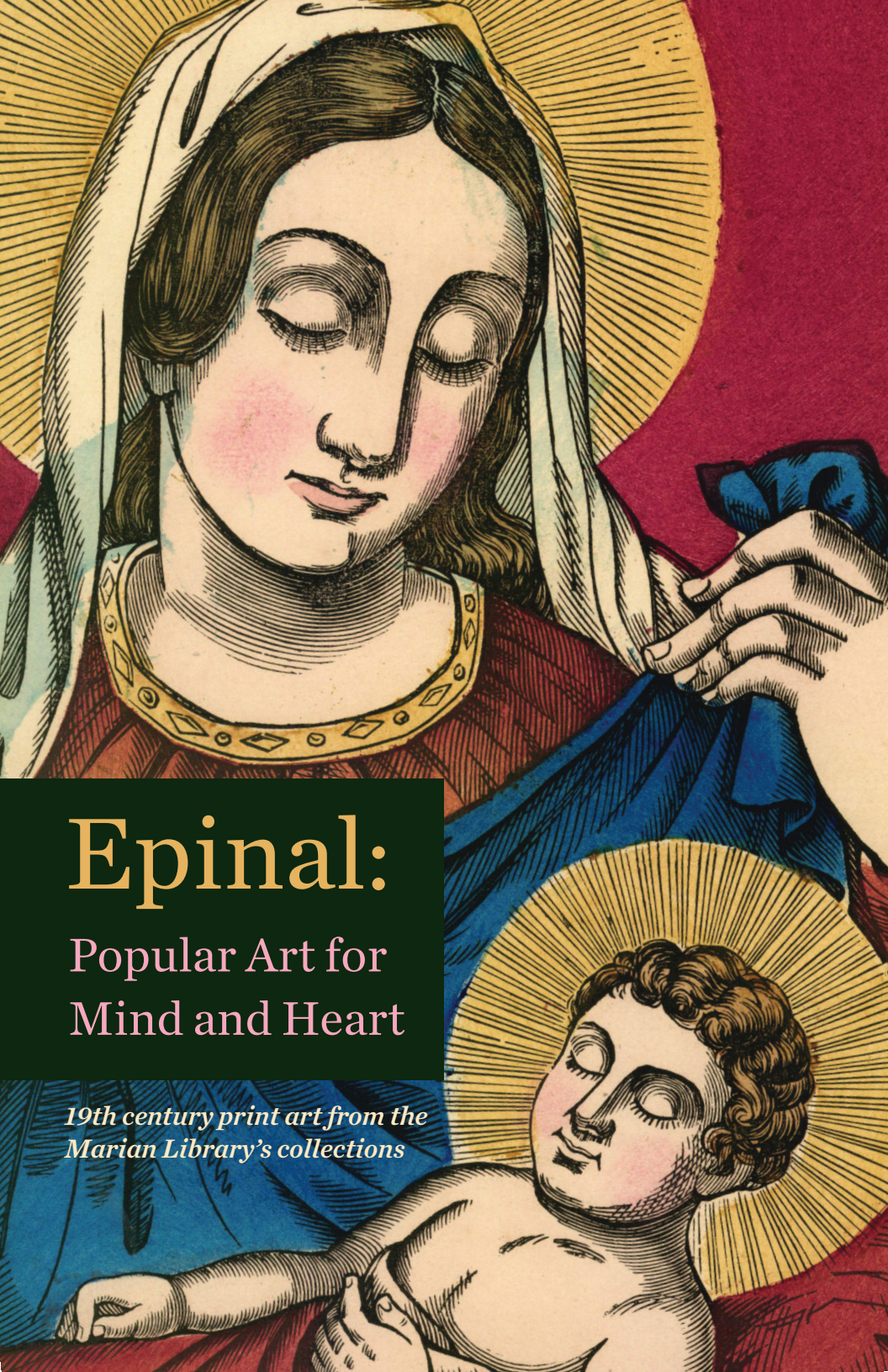
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Epinal:

Popular Art for
Mind and Heart

*19th century print art from the
Marian Library's collections*

Images of Epinal

Father Johann G. Roten

Created for the exhibit:

Epinal: Popular Art for Mind and Heart

Feb. 8 – March 31, 2016

Marian Library Gallery, University of Dayton

A Precious Heritage

This exhibit shows large-sized prints with mainly Marian themes. As part of a collection of popular religious images printed around 1850 in France, these pictures are known as *Images of Epinal*. The Marian themes represented here show many facets, some relating to special Marian titles, and others showing apparitions or sanctuaries of France. A few prints are popular reproductions of famous Marian paintings, while others depict famous miraculous images of Mary or scenes of her life. It seems appropriate to consider these nineteenth century prints as bible for the poor of modern times. The prints of this exhibit are part of the Marian Library holdings. They are both rare and antique and constitute a precious heritage.

A Name

Popular imagery began in the fifteenth century and reached its apex in the nineteenth century with images generically known as *Images d'Epinal*, named after the town of Epinal in northeast France, famous for its mass production of devotional imagery. These devotional images bear witness to the aspirations, customs, and religious beliefs of the time of the French Restoration (1814-1848).

The implantation of popular or naïve imagery in Epinal dates from the seventeenth century. Its evolution was such that the name Epinal was given generically to holy cards and other narrative popular art.

Up to the middle of the nineteenth century, the name of the artist was of little significance. Artisans did not produce original designs but copied preexisting pictures. However, with the advance of technology, artists like Guy Arnoux and Pierre Abadie-Landel were needed to create original designs.

N.-D. DE BON-SECOURS.



PRIÈRE.

O Marie ! reine des cieux, de la terre et des mers ! daignez couvrir de votre divine protection les marins qui voguent sur une mer orageuse, exposés à la fureur des flots ; prêtez votre secours aux pêcheurs, et accueillez la fervente prière qu'ils vous adressent au milieu de la tempête ; sauvez-les des dangers, et préservez-les de la mort ; ramenez-les sains et saufs dans leur patrie, au sein de leur famille ; rendez le fils à sa mère éplorée, à son père qui l'appelle, un époux à son épouse chérie, et le père aux cris de ses enfants, afin que tous puissent venir au pied des autels célébrer votre puissante protection et vous rendre mille actions de grâces. Ainsi soit-il.

Propriété de l'Éditeur. (Déposé.)

De la Fabrique de FELLERIN, Imprimeur-Libraire, à ÉPINAL.

GALERIE RELIGIEUSE.

MATER DEL.



PRIÈRE.

CONSOLATRICE des affligés, secours des chrétiens, vous les consolez tous en toutes sortes d'afflictions et de toutes manières, des qu'ils recourent à vous avec confiance. Vous vous souvenez qu'en qualité de mère de Jésus, vous êtes l'avocate, la protectrice, la mère des chrétiens; votre cœur est toujours prêt à les secourir. Ah! jetez les yeux sur vos enfants exilés dans cette vallée de larmes; soyez touchée de vos maux et de nos besoins. Prière Dieu de nous faire connaître ses miséricordes. Ainsi soit-il.

A Main Center

There were three European centers, located in Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium, and France, responsible for supplying most of the market with devotional images. French production of popular imagery took place mainly in Paris. By mid-sixteenth century, this production in Paris concentrated on one street, the rue Montorgueil. At the end of the century the companies producing images moved to rue Saint Jacques. Eventually, especially in the nineteenth century, the industry concentrated in the Saint Sulpice quarters of Paris.

A Change in Style

The move of the imagery industry to Saint Sulpice was important because it defined a change in style, as exemplified by the Bouasse-Lebel Company created in 1845, and soon to become one of the most famous of the producers of popular imagery. Allegories and symbols were favored until the third quarter of the nineteenth century when individual piety was rekindled. Relying heavily on the purity of the soul theme and individual relation to God, images were framed with paper lace or with one picture hidden beneath the other for a surprise-image. The artistic style and content of these images was inspired by religious Romanticism.

A Manifold Meaning

Sacred and Secular

The first images edited were religious prints called holy cards (*saintetés*) or leaflets of saints (*feuilles des saints*). A title or a short prayer accompanied earlier pictures, with later pictures including longer prayers and/or hymns to be sung to the melody of popular airs, songs the reader would know.

As production of popular images became a lay enterprise, secular themes developed. Diversification occurred principally in the nineteenth century with representations including anecdotal, philosophical, satirical, historical, military, legendary, and children-oriented themes. However, even after the French Revolution with its censure of religious imagery, devotional images accounted for the majority of prints. In the 1850s forty-four percent of production by the Wentzel Company in Wissembourg was devoted to religious images, seventeen percent of which represented saints, while fifteen percent showed Jesus Christ.

LA IMMACULA CONCEPTION DE LA GLORIOSA VIRGENMARIA.

L'IMMACULÉE CONCEPTION DE LA GLORIEUSE VIERGE MARIE.



PRIÈRE À LA MÈRE DE DIEU.

O Dieu très-miséricordieux, soutenez notre faiblesse par la puissance de votre grâce, et comme nous célébrons l'Immaculée Conception de la Sainte Mère de Dieu, faites que, par le secours de son intercession, nous tous rélévons de nos péchés. Par le même Jésus-Christ Notre-Seigneur, Ainsi soit-il.

ORACION A LA MADRE DE DIOS.

O misericordiosísimo Dios, tened compasión de nuestra fragilidad humana por el poder de vuestra gracia, y que celebrando hoy la festividad de la Purísima de vuestra Augusta Madre, hacéis que por su intercesión gloriosa, nos perdone nuestros pecados : Amen.
Fábrica d'Imágenes de Gengal & Nieto.



SOMMEIL DE JÉSUS.

Powerful and Catechetical

Religious images had a powerful and positive influence throughout the history of Christianity. Images of Epinal have an explicitly catechetical character. They show (more than tell) the faithful how to sustain and enrich their simple faith and prayer life. Missionaries adopted devotional images to help natives understand the Christian teachings and support their devotions. In the nineteenth century the clergy distributed them to the congregation to remind them of their duties, and to passersby to attract them to church. They could also be bought from peddlers as images of protection.

Popular and Colorful

These popular images served also as a decorative features on walls in homes and schools. Thus the printing companies started to produce large-sized images. They were presented in a heavy, brightly colored floral frame. Developing a wide range of colors was most important because the more vivid the colors, the more successful the images.

Exhibit Guide:

Images of Epinal

from the Marian Library/International Marian Research Institute Collection

The *Images of Epinal* in this exhibit have been categorized into the following nine themes. French titles have been translated into English.

Jesus Christ

Portrait de N.S. Jésus Christ

Portrait of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Sommeil de Jésus

Sleeping Jesus

Life of Mary

Naissance de la Vierge

Birth of the Virgin Mary

Mariage de la Sainte Vierge avec Saint Joseph,
sous les auspices du Saint-Esprit

Wedding of the Blessed Virgin Mary with Saint Joseph,
under the auspices of the Holy Spirit

Le Trépasement de la Sainte Vierge

Death of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Doctrinal Titles

L'Immaculée Conception de la Glorieuse
Vierge Marie

The Immaculate Conception of the Glorious
Virgin Mary

Mater Dei
Mother of God

La Très-Sainte Vierge
The Blessed Virgin Mary

L'Assomption de la Vierge
The Assumption of the Virgin Mary

La Reine des Anges
The Queen of Angels

Notre Dame de l'Espérance
Our Lady of Hope

Devotional Titles

Notre Dame du Saint Rosaire
Our Lady of the Holy Rosary

La Sainte Vierge au Scapulaire
The Blessed Virgin with Scapular

Nore Dame du Mont-Carmel
Our Lady of Mount Carmel

La Médaille Miraculeuse
The Miraculous Medal (Rue du Bac, Paris)

Marian Shrines (Geographical Designation)

Notre Dame de Halle

Our Lady of Halle (Belgium)

Notre Dame de Luxembourg

Our Lady of Luxembourg

Notre Dame de Lorette

Our Lady of Loreto (Italy)

Notre Dame de la Garde

Our Lady of la Garde (Marseille)

Notre Dame du Puy

Our Lady of Le Puy (center of France)

Notre Dame de Rumengol

Our Lady of Rumengol (Brittany)

Marian Shrines (Advocations)

Notre Dame de Liesse

Our Lady of Joy (Picardie)

Notre Dame de Bonne Délivrance

Our Lady of Prompt Deliverance (Paris)

Notre Dame d'Espérance

Our Lady of Hope (Brittany)

Notre Dame des Oliviers

Our Lady of the Olive Trees (Auvergne)

Notre Dame de Bon-Secours

Our Lady of Good Help

Notre Dame de Santé

Our Lady of Health (Provence)

Blessings for Various Situations

La Bénédiction des Familles et des Maisons,
en l'Honneur de la Sainte Famille

Benediction of Families and Homes,
in Honor of the Holy Family

Bénédiction pour tous les Jours de l'Année

Benediction for every Day of the Year

Mary and Saints

Sainte Anne d'Auray

Saint Anne of Auray (Brittany)

Saint Antoine de Padoue

Saint Anthony of Padua

Iconographical Themes

La Vierge au Raisin

The Virgin Mary with Grapes

Reproduction of Pierre Mignard (1612-1695) La Vierge aux Raisins

La Sainte Vierge à la Chaise

The Blessed Virgin of the Chain

Reproduction of Raphael's Madonna della Sedia, 1513-1514

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